

Judicial

Judicial Information System Upgrades

The Supreme Court, by rule, may (1) establish a \$10 mandatory appearance fee on convicted defendants in courts of limited jurisdiction; (2) establish a \$10 assessment for each traffic infraction account for which a person requests a time payment schedule; and (3) increase the base monetary penalty for each infraction by \$10. Increased revenues associated with these new rule changes total \$6.9 million, of which \$4.2 million is expected to accrue to the Judicial Information System (JIS) to enable the Office of the Administrator for the Courts to upgrade and expand the JIS mainframe computer system. The remaining \$2.7 million accrues to the Public Safety and Education Account.

New Appellate Court Judges

Two additional Court of Appeals judges are provided for District II, thereby increasing the total number of judges from four to six. District II includes Pierce, Clallam, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, Kitsap, Mason, Thurston, Clark, Cowlitz, Lewis, Pacific, Skamania, and Wahkiakum counties. Funding includes staff support of four law clerks and one secretary plus remodeling, equipment, and furnishing costs.

Recording of Decisions Made Self-Supporting

The commission which supervises the publication of court reports currently has the authority to establish the price of Supreme Court and Appellate Court opinions. Staff costs of the reporter are to be fully recovered, saving \$183,000 General Fund-State this biennium and a total of \$732,000 next biennium in the Supreme Court's budget.

Payment of Superior Court Judges Benefits

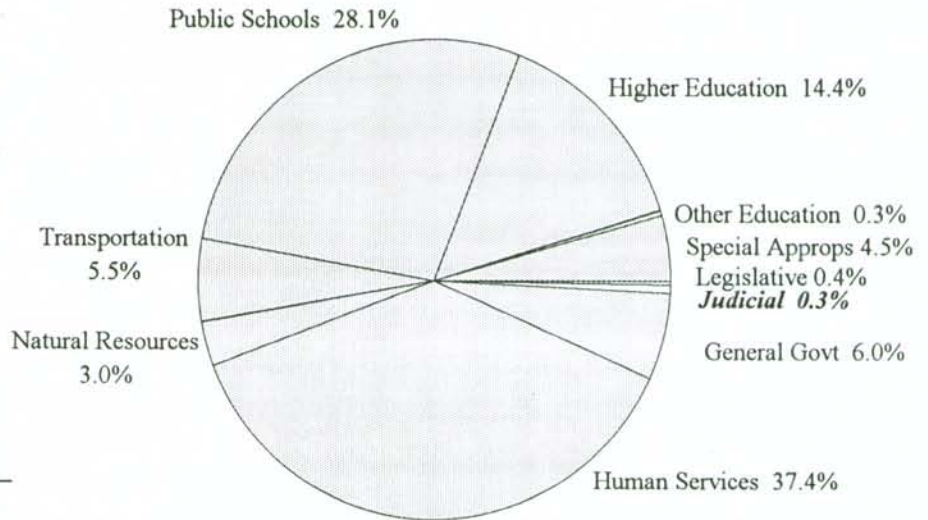
Savings to the state general fund of \$389,000 will be realized by requiring a local match of Superior Court judges' benefits. Counties will be required to pay 50 percent of judges benefits for social security, medical benefits, and insurance. The state will continue to pay 100 percent of the retirement benefits. Both state and local governments will continue to equally share the costs of salaries for Superior Court judges.

Washington State 1993-95 Operating Budget

Total Budgeted Funds

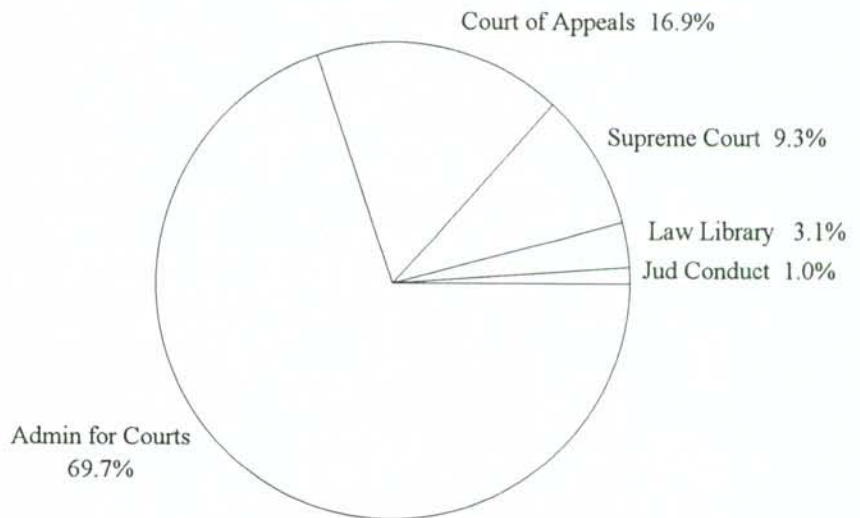
(Dollars in Thousands)

Legislative	108,358
Judicial	103,365
General Government	1,798,367
Human Services	11,199,948
Natural Resources	906,953
Transportation	1,639,958
Public Schools	8,412,692
Higher Education	4,323,056
Other Education	86,387
Special Appropriations	1,348,012
Statewide Total	29,927,096



Washington State

Admin for the Courts	72,035
Court of Appeals	17,484
Supreme Court	9,586
State Law Library	3,193
Judicial Conduct Comm	1,067
Judicial	103,365



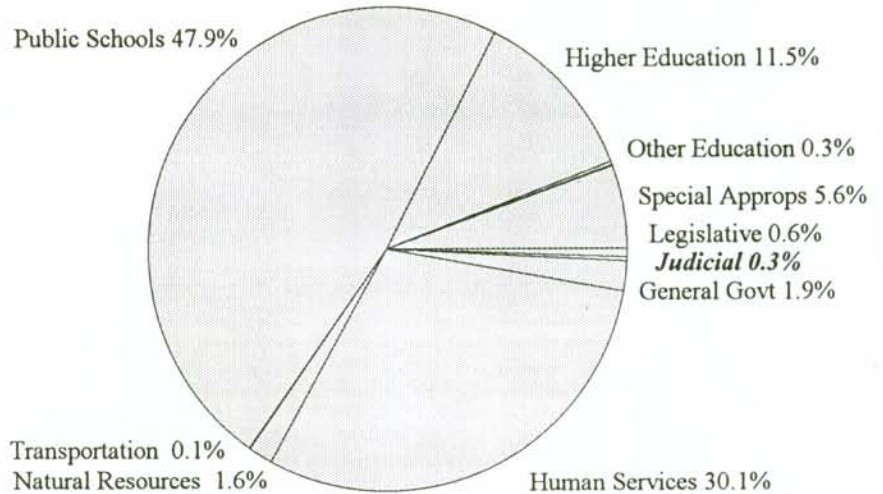
Judicial

Washington State 1993-95 Operating Budget

General Fund - State

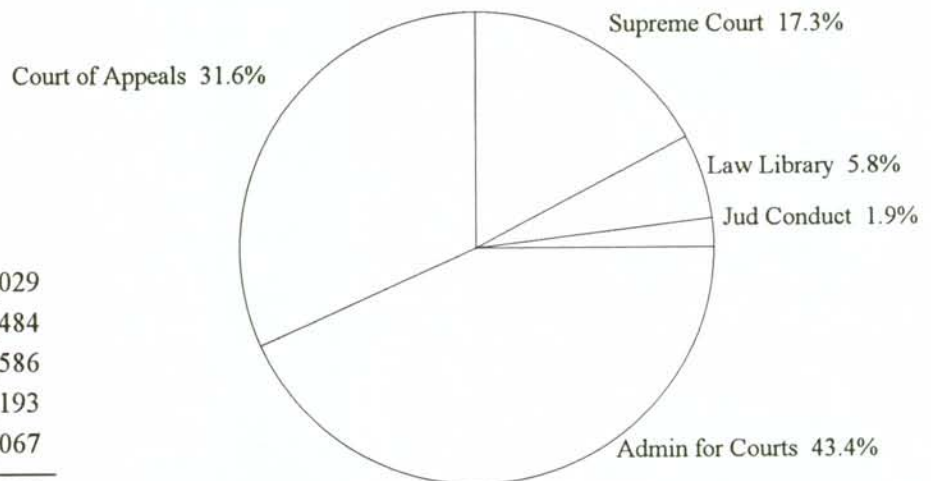
(Dollars in Thousands)

Legislative	101,321
Judicial	55,359
General Government	308,861
Human Services	4,882,843
Natural Resources	263,032
Transportation	18,065
Public Schools	7,756,642
Higher Education	1,860,668
Other Education	44,662
Special Appropriations	913,917
Statewide Total	16,205,370



Washington State

Admin for the Courts	24,029
Court of Appeals	17,484
Supreme Court	9,586
State Law Library	3,193
Judicial Conduct Comm	1,067
Judicial	55,359



Judicial

Supreme Court
(Dollars in Thousands)

	<u>GF-S</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Total</u>
1993-95 ORIGINAL APPROPRIATION	9,769	0	9,769
1994 Supplemental Budget			
1. Self-support Reporter of Decisions	-183	0	-183
Total Supplemental Items	-183	0	-183
1993-95 REVISED APPROPRIATION	9,586	0	9,586

Comments:

1. SELF-SUPPORT REPORTER OF DECISIONS - The Commission which supervises the publication of court reports under RCW 2.32.170 is authorized to establish the price of Supreme Court and Court of Appeals opinions, "as nearly as may be, equal to the cost of such publication and the expenses incidental thereto, ...". This proposal requires the staff costs of the Reporter of Decisions to be fully recovered, as well as publishing and other costs. Other options may be considered to ensure that these costs are not subsidized by state funds. This change will be effective January 1, 1995.

Court of Appeals

(Dollars in Thousands)

	<u>GF-S</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Total</u>
1993-95 ORIGINAL APPROPRIATION	17,117	0	17,117
1994 Supplemental Budget			
1. Additional Judges - Division II	<u>367</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>367</u>
Total Supplemental Items	367	0	367
1993-95 REVISED APPROPRIATION	17,484	0	17,484

Comments:

1. ADDITIONAL JUDGES - DIVISION II - Two additional judges are funded for Division II, District II and District III of the Court of Appeals. This will increase the number of judges from four to six. Division II includes Pierce, Clallam, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, Kitsap, Mason, Thurston, Clark, Cowlitz, Lewis, Pacific, Skamania, and Wahkiakum counties. The funding includes one-time costs of approximately \$107,000. The District III position is effective November 1, 1994, and the District II position is effective February 1, 1995.

Commission on Judicial Conduct

(Dollars in Thousands)

	<u>GF-S</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Total</u>
1993-95 ORIGINAL APPROPRIATION	1,013	0	1,013
1994 Supplemental Budget			
1. Increased Monthly Facilities Lease	3	0	3
2. Equipment Repair & Replacement	3	0	3
3. Reduce Personal Services Contracts	-20	0	-20
4. Ethics for State Officers	68	0	68
Total Supplemental Items	54	0	54
1993-95 REVISED APPROPRIATION	1,067	0	1,067

Comments:

1. INCREASED MONTHLY FACILITIES LEASE - Funds an increased monthly lease payment of 9.4 percent per month effective November 1, 1993.
2. EQUIPMENT REPAIR & REPLACEMENT - Provides one-time funding for the computer used for scanning records onto optical disks, entering case information in a database, and for other software applications used by the Commission.
3. REDUCE PERSONAL SERVICES CONTRACTS - Reduces funding available for personal service contracts used to investigate complaints concerning judges.
4. ETHICS FOR STATE OFFICERS - Provides funding for the Judicial Conduct Commission's portion of chapter 154, Laws of 1994 (ESSB 6111), Ethics for State Officers and Employees. Funding is provided for additional commission members, staff, and travel for 12 meetings per year. Assumed effective date is January 1, 1995.

Office of the Administrator for the Courts

(Dollars in Thousands)

	GF-S	Other	Total
1993-95 ORIGINAL APPROPRIATION	24,418	43,384	67,802
1994 Supplemental Budget			
1. Local Match Superior Judge Benefits	-389	0	-389
2. JIS Information System	0	4,622	4,622
Total Supplemental Items	-389	4,622	4,233
1993-95 REVISED APPROPRIATION	24,029	48,006	72,035

Comments:

1. LOCAL MATCH SUPERIOR JUDGE BENEFITS - Under Article IV, Section 13 of the Washington State Constitution, "... one-half of the salary of each of the superior court judges shall be paid by the state, and the other one-half by the county or counties for which he (or she) is elected." Currently, however, the state pays for 100 percent of the costs of associated benefits for superior court judges. This proposal requires counties to pay for one-half of the judges benefit costs for social security, medical benefits, and insurance; the state continues to pay 100 percent of the retirement benefits. Effective date assumed is January 1, 1995.
2. JIS INFORMATION SYSTEM - Chapter 8, Laws of 1994 (SSB 6006) provides authority for the Courts to establish, by rule, increases in assessments including a \$10 mandatory appearance fee, a \$10 fee for time payments of traffic infractions, and an increase to the base monetary penalty for each infraction of \$10. These assessments will raise \$4.6 million for the JIS account and \$2.3 million for the PSEA account. This item allows for the purchase of an additional computer and upgrade of the JIS system to expand capacity so that additional courts can have access to the system. A total of 41 courts will be brought on-line beginning January, 1996.

